MARYLAND INVENTORY OF Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-4399

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Survey No. B-4399

Condition

x good fair

__ deteriorated

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Check one unaltered X altered

Check one

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moved da

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 2

The brick, four-bay, four-story building dates to the circa 1840s and was substantially remodelled in the second half of the nineteenth century. The building is actually two two-bay units which are abutted by partywall buildings on either side. The brick work reveals that the building was originally two-and-one-half stories high and that both units were built at the same time. The building faces south on West Saratoga Street. The street frontage is 30' and the depth is 60'.

A round-top door centered on the first story leads to the back alley. The building is actually constructed over the top of this passage. The corridor separates the two units.

The first story of #406 (the east unit) has its entrance in the fourth bay. The transom is filled with an air conditioning unit. The door surround has ribbed wood trim at the sides and top. The trim abuts the frame of the display window in the first bay. The plate glass window has a wood back band surround. The window and the door are topped by a common cornice of band, fillet and band set over a flush back band with fillets. The cellar window in the second bay is faced with granite.

The first story of #408 has its entrance in the first bay. The three-panelled glass door has the same ribbed trim as #410. The plate glass display window does not abut the door trim. It has wood surrounds. The window and door are topped by a common cornice that has a fillet and back band set over a recessed back band and fillet. There is a cellar window in the second bay.

The upper stories are not differentiated between the two units, except for a wider spacing in the brick wall between the second and third bays. The second and third stories have 2/2 sash windows with brick splayed jack arches and wood sills. The fourth story has 2/2 windows with wood sills and no lintel details.

The cornice of the shed roof consists of a projecting brick stringcourse topped by a brick dentil course.

The interior of #406 is raised. Three steps in the vestibule lead to the front room that is covered with wallboard and has an acoustic ceiling. A chair rail with panel wainscotting lines the walls.

The door for #408 opens onto a stair hall/vestibule. A door to the east leads to the first story space that is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling. A door with a transom to the north leads to a flight of stairs that runs up the west to the upper stories.

support.

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This building, though quite altered, is an example of a small-scale row of Greek Revival houses. Unlike the row at 722-270 North Howard Street, these double units and its row neighbor to the east have been substantially altered. The two units are laid in common bond, but a break in the brickwork at the third story level indicates that this row was originally two-and-one-half stories tall with eyebrow windows in the attic story. Confirmation of this idea can be found in the row neighbor to the east which retains the eyebrow windows. The height and spacing of the window sills and the cornice line of the neighbor also correspond to the change in the brick pattern on these two units. The arched alley inlet opening is also more characteristic of the early decades of the nineteenth century than of the second half when the building was remodelled.

The size and massing of these two two-bay units are illustrative of early nineteenth-century real estate speculation. The construction of two-bay double houses was a common way of limiting the amount of financial risk to the speculative builder, since the amount of money invested was minimized by the relative smallness of the project. The small amount of space within these houses is also indicative of the status of the laboring class whose means, however modest, permitted them to purchase or rent single family homes.

The presence of dwellings, or possibly combination shophouses, in this block indicates the residential character of the neighborhood in the early nineteenth century. It is possible this building was originally a shop-house type. The first story would have been used for commercial purposes and the upper stories would have been used as dwelling quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop-house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purpose was clearly indicated on the exterior. Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4399

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. G	eographic	cal Data					There's		
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11. Fo	rm Prepa	ared By		П					
name/title	Diane Shaw	, Architectu	ral Histor	ian					
organization	CHAP, Room	1037		date De	ecember	21,	1991		
street & number	er 417 E. Fay	yette Street		telephone	301-3	96-48	366		
city or town	Baltimore				MD				

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCD 100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023 301-514-7600 B-4399 406-408 West Saratoga Street Baltimore, MD Section 8 Significance 8.1

cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."

During the second half of the nineteenth century the two units were radically changed. The attic story was raised to a full four stories, the shed roof cornice was given a restrained brick dentil course and, of significance to the burgeoning commercial district, the first stories received plate glass windows and cornice-stringcourses that emphasized the non-residential aspect to the street-level activities. The two entrances within the interior vestibule confirm that there were were more than one tenant per building. The changes to the building indicate changing aesthetics and new needs for commercially viable space and additional residential quarters.

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment: Urban

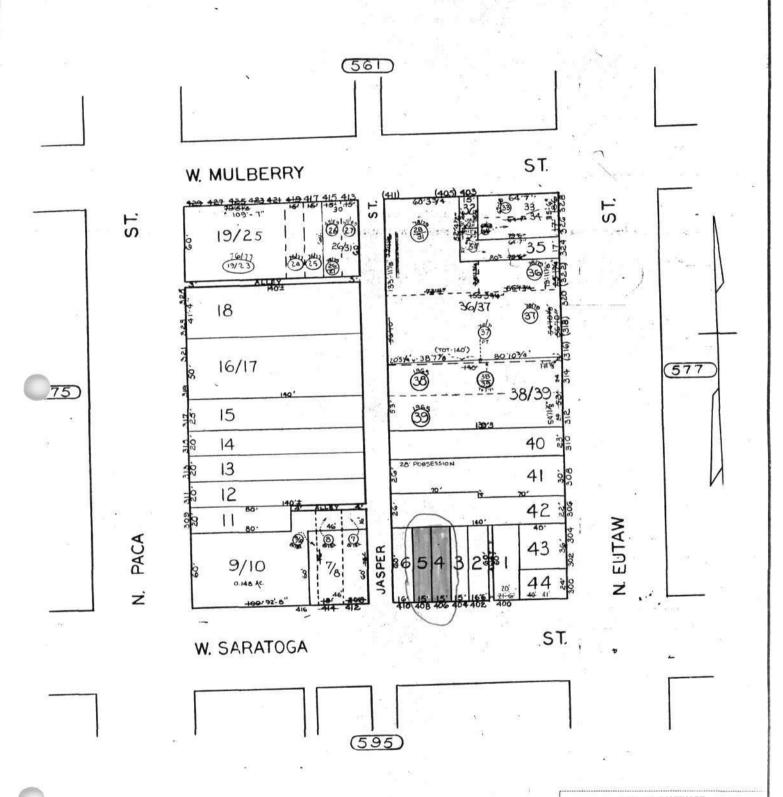
Historic Function and Use:

Residential

Known Design Source: None

REVISIONS

LOT 38/39 CONST PER APP. C. SH. 94-70
LOTS 38,34 55COTT, FER DEED C SH. 9830
LOTS 33 & 34 CONSTO. PER APP.; C.SH. 9850
LOTS 26& 27 CONSTO. PER APP.; C.SH. 9976
LOTS 37/39/39 PER DEED; C. SH. 497
LOTS 11 44 PER DEED C. SH. 409
9/13 PER APP.C.SH 71-002
26/R7, 28/B1,364 57 PER APP.E. PLS. CAISH. 78-027
1/8,9/10 PER. DEED C. SH. 81-727



CED BY P.L.W.

TERED BY PLW

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(4) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER

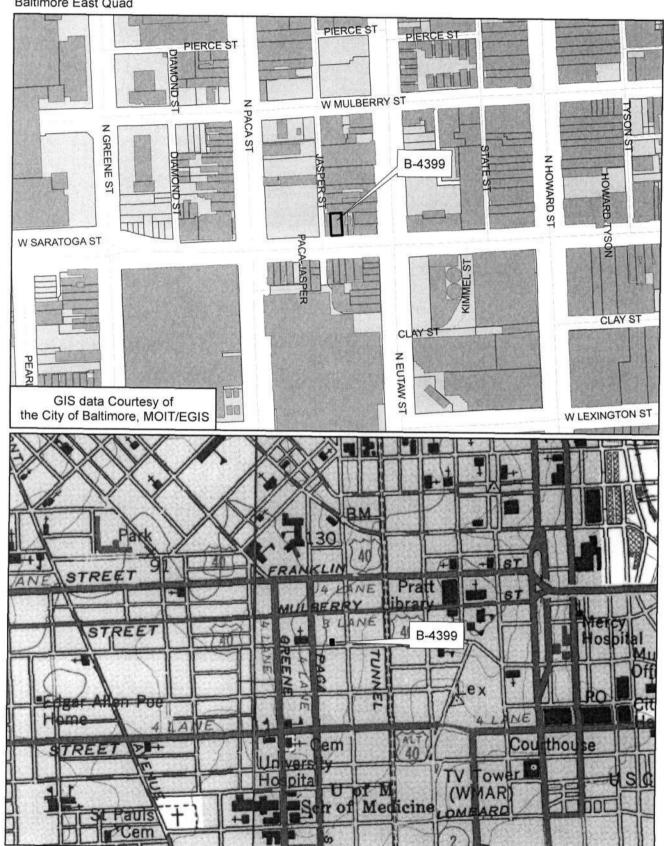
CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

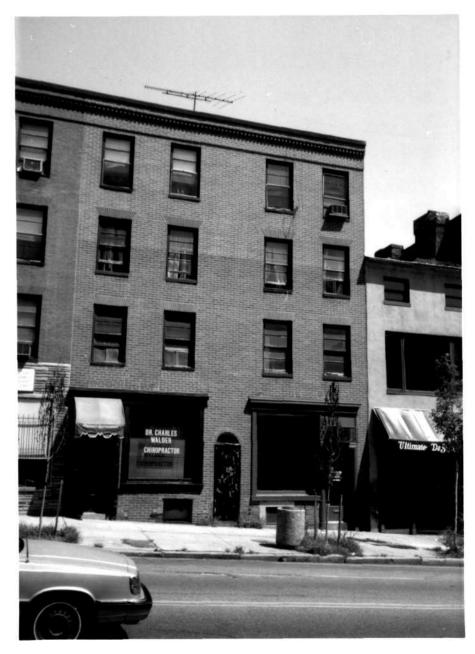
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

ward 4 section 3 BLOCK 576

SCALE 1-50 DATE NOV 1966

B-4399 406-408 W. Saratoga Street Block 0576 Lot 004 Baltimore City Baltimore East Quad





B-4399 406-408 W. Saratoga St. Baltimore MD Brane Shaw 8/9/ maryland SHPO Facade, South elevation